

JIHAD is an amateur publication for the refereeing of postal Diplomacy(tm) games and other conflict simulations.

Published monthly by Glenn Overby, 23096 Tawas, Hazel Park, MI 48030. JIHAD subscriptions are available from the publisher at an annual rate of \$9.00 (12 issues).

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#19

JIHAD!

Opening Guns

Late again...this grows tedious. I've a litany of "legitimate" reasons for it, of course, but I'll not bother with them. Or, as they put it in certain military training situations, "No excuse, Sir!"

All deadlines are extended to December 18th as partial compensation. I'd give more time, but that would mean putting off the issue until after New Year's...thanks to the drill team...and that's too long.

Despite my not being able to read a calendar, things are looking up in this issue. For the first time since the Canadian postal strike started, no games herein are delayed for any reason. This is a very good sign, as delays are a pain in the end for all concerned.

Greg Stewart has contributed a "Desperate Man" story for this issue. These stories seem to get around, don't they? Maybe it's because they're funny.

Also in here is a reprint of Seismic Diplomacy, a French Diplomacy variant that hasn't yet made it to North America. I listed it on my "10½ Best Diplomacy Variants" list in Al Pearson's Zine of Lists, and now you can see why on page 12.

Finally, scattered throughout the zine will be comments on the 1981 Leeder Polls. I've decided not to publish two pages of boring raw statistics, as they'd be a waste of space for most people. (I do have vote breakdowns completed, of course--I had to do them for some of my analyses--and they'll be available to those who care by private arrangement.) I hope that what I do have to say will be interesting and/or significant.

Look out for the flying shells, as 1981 AQ appears to have declared "press war" upon the 1981 C press game.

Shall we...

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Inserts--An Experiment

I've not been satisfied with the ratio of reading material to games in recent JIHADS. Others have made the same observation.

Yet as long as this zine carries 21 games, and encourages good press in several of those games, it's inevitable that games will eat up lots of space for the foreseeable future.

Increasing the size of the zine doesn't work, either, for two reasons: first, it takes a lot of time to put out 24 or more pages; and second, it costs a lot of money to print that much stuff. The break-even point for 28 pages an issue would require a \$13 per year (or so) sub rate!

Therefore, I'll be putting 1-3 games--different ones each issue--on inserts, rather than using up zine space for them. The extra space thus "gained" can be used for more writing and more variety.

This issue's insert games are Machiavelli, 1981 N, and AMF 81.

After a month or two of these, please tell me what you think. I'm trying to keep up high quality while maintaining affordable costs and a feasible workload...it's not easy, being a full-time juggler! ((PS--I expect the "problem" to solve itself as games end, but that will take some time.))

* * * * *

Changes of Address

Steve Heinowski to 12034 Pyle, Oberlin, OH 44074
Al Pearson (KM 8001, 1981 C, 1980 IF, 1981 HS) to Box 898, Charles Town, WV 25414

David Anderson (Bourse, KM 8001, 2020, Mercator, Woolworth, Song, 1981 N, 1981 HT, Youngstown) to 219 Oakland Ave, Pontiac, MI 49058
Steven Duerr (1980 KW, 2020, Mercator, Woolworth, Youngstown, AMF 81) to 6433 Bradford St, San Diego, CA 92115
Gerald Carne (1981 C) to Box 531, Leland, MI 49654

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Game Openings are available in the following:

BOURSE - an economic game tied to a game of regular Diplomacy. This game is already in progress, but new players may start at any time. The \$2.50 gamefee includes receipt of all copies of the international subzine PAX, where the game runs with the worldwide Dip game 1981 HS.

ANARCHY - This is a 34 player Diplomacy variant--no gamefee. Each player will start with one unit and one supply center. Builds may be made in any owned center.

Stewart, Anderson, Luedi, Myers, Strain, Taylor, Slaughter, Spink, Brown, and Whitty are registered.

There is a proposal to make this a 17 player game, with two centers each (and a rule requiring the centers to be separated by three spaces or more). I'd appreciate comments from the registered players or other interested parties.

No other openings are expected until May 1982, or later.

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Leeder Polls '81: Part I

Polls fascinate me, as do statistics in general. I suppose it's rooted in the fact that I've always had an aptitude for numbers AND a strong competitive streak.

The Leeder Poll is universally acknowledged as blessing and as curse in the hobby. Its annual results are cussed, discussed, dissected and speculated about for months after they're published.

Yes, I'm adding to a body of writing that doubtless is clogged with crap (as well as intelligent criticism) already. However, by taking a dispassionate look at the raw numbers generated by this year's vote, I hope to bring a greater understanding of the process to everyone. Statistics are, after all, only as good as the interpretations given them.

Perhaps the most frequently voiced criticism of the Leeder Polls is that they allow "grudge votes"; i.e. you can hurt a zine or GM that you dislike by voting "1" or "0". This is perceived as somehow being "unfair" in some quarters...though I feel that the negative comment is just as appropriate as the positive. Both have their place.

Nevertheless, the grudge vote DOES have a large impact on occasion, and is always given more weight than it rightfully deserves.

Let's take two examples from the '81 Polls and look at the true impact of a zero or two in action.

Brutus Bulletin was the #3 zine in the '81 Leeder Poll. The numbers racked up by BB are impressive enough--of 60 voters, 54 voted "6" or higher, including 16 "10"s, and 58 of 60 voted 4 or better. The other two voted "0", so what happened?

BB had a rather impressive 7.95 rating as is. Without one of the zeroes, that rating would have risen to 8.08 (and #2), and without both zeroes, BB could have been #1 at 8.22. That's impact...especially when you look at what .27 of a point does in the middle of the lists.

Lee Kendter, Sr. stands as the winner of the "Most Screwed Over By One Grudge Vote Award" for 1981, though. Hands down.

Lee had 15 votes on his slate, including NINE "10"s--more than anyone except #1 John Daly, and more percentagewise than even John. He also had one "0" (nothing else under 4) which made the difference between 8.20 for 12th place and 8.79 for 4th!

For the Class of '80 poll I ran last year, I constructed an "adjusted average" (technical term: positional mean) based on the mean of the middle 60% of each zine's/GM's votes. This measure accounts for all votes, while minimizing the distortions of extreme votes. Statistics buffs will recognize that it blends the characteristics of the mean and the median.

I'll be using the "adjusted average" in some of the analyses on later pages in this issue.

1981 AQ (Mensa #14)*****
Fall, 1902

Do I Smell A Juggernaut In The Air? How About A Shuffle In The Black and Blue Triangle? Maybe Tunis Will STAY Neutral In This Game???

Summer 1902...Italy retreats a tri to bud.

Austria (Mark Larzelere): f ALB-tri; a TRI-bud; a VIE s a tri-bud.

England (Pete Gaughan): f SKA-swe; f NWG-nwy; f NTH s French f pic-bel; a YOR holds.

France (Mike Casucci): a gas-BUR; a PAR s a gas-bur; a MAR s a gas-bur; a mun*ber; f pic-BEL; f mid-WES.

Germany (Errol Platt): a ber-MUN; a RUH s a ber-mun; f kie-HOL; f den-KIE; a bel*holds.

Italy (Peter Simpson): a BUD-vie; a TYO holds; a VEN-tri; f gre*tun (impossible); f NAP-spa (impossible).

Russia (Michael Whitty): a RUM-bud; a UKR-rum; a GAL s a rum-bud; a stp-FIN; f SWE-nwy; f SEV s a ukr-rum.

Turkey (Paul Larsen): a SER s a bul-gre; a bul-GRE; f BLA s a con-bul; a con-BUL.

Supply Center Chart

Austria ~~xx~~ vie ~~xx~~ tri (2) remove 1

England lpl lon edi nwy (4) even

France par mar bre spa por ~~xx~~ bel (6) even

Germany kie ber den hol ~~xx~~ mun (5) build 1

Italy rom nap ven ~~xx~~ ~~xx~~ bud (4) remove 1

Russia stp mos sev war swe rum (6) even

Turkey con ank smy bul ser gke (6) build 2

Neutral tun

French a mun must retreat to boh, sil or otb; German a bel is annihilated; Italian f gre must retreat to aeg, ion or otb.

Deadline for Winter 1902/Spring 1903 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on Friday, December 11, 1981. Press follows.

Ankara (RTP) - The Turkish foreign ministry today announced that a letter was intercepted between the Italian fleet based in Greece and the Italian High Command when a drunken Italian officer sailed to Hellespont because he thought "Hellespont" was Turkish for "Acropolis." The contents of the letter were not released.

Paris (PPI) - Emperor Michel Napoleon I congratulates Herr Larzelere on his successful campaign.

Downing Street to Lindenstrasse - Yes, I did receive your letter to Mike Whitty, whether you wanted me to or not.

Silly, Trite and Useless Disinformation Service (STUD Service) - Details of a private party thrown by the Tsar were leaked by a high (?) government source. The party was thrown to celebrate the downfall of the Austrian Empire. "It just goes to show what happens to those who don't reply to diplomatic correspondence!" the Tsar reportedly gloated. The Tsar had calmed down to a more philosophic mood when he told our source: "If either Kaiser Franz-Michael Morris or his successor, Kaiser Larzelere, had ever bothered to answer my letters, things might have turned out differently. Our new thrust shall be in the north, now that we know who is aligned with who." The Tsar offered a toast to the Balance of Power in the West, and proceeded to empty a gallon bottle of vodka.

South Bend to Hazel Park and others - A prize awaits the first player to decode the sequence of datelines concluding with this one. Print your guesses, gentlemen: one apiece.

Petrograd - Nicholas, Tsar and Autocrat of All The Russias and Rumania and Sweden, and Liberator of Hungary ((sic)), accepts the challenge of the puny weakling nations of 1981 HR to a War of the M-Game Press. "Just as the pen is mightier than the sword," declared the Tsar, "a victory in the press is more noble than a victory on the battlefield!" The Tsar is confident of his eventual press victory now that he (see next page...)

Petrograd (cont.) - has discovered a secret weapon: by dipping his fountain pen in vodka, the Tsar's ink flows faster and he is able to write press faster. However, the technique does have its drawbacks, as the Tsar reflected: "It doesn't do much for the vodka."

Roma - Fearing an end of his supply of Chateau Neuf de Longejohns, his favorite wine, King Umberto today ordered a full diplomatic mission to France with guarantees of his good faith and affection for Emperor Michel Napoleon. He also offered to send the Princess Trollina with the mission, but was cautioned by his advisers that such a move might be viewed with disfavor by her suitor, ne-Baron Umfried von Dalrymple of Germany. He has opted instead to send the Princess on an extended skiing trip to the Alps.

Tunis - The King of Tunisia declared a day of national celebration upon receiving the news that his nation would remain neutral until at least 1903. "I don't understand why the Italian fleets remained in port this Spring," the King commented, "but I am grateful that, at least for a while longer, I can unpack my bags and relax in my home country. LONG LIVE INDEPENDENT TUNISIA!"

Sofia (Balkan News Service) - A high Turkish government official at the Turkish embassy today said that a formal complaint was being registered against the Italian government because of a letter captured some time ago. The Imperial Palace denied this claim.

Petrograd to London and Berlin - Thanks for letting me know about your plans. I could have done something to help one or the other of you. Now I know how a fifth wheel feels.

Downing Street to Gorky Park - Your phone number would have solved the whole thing a lot faster!

Petrograd, Texas, 1981 AQ to Petrograd, Russia, 1981 HR - Oooooo-eeeeee! Boy, what chew doin' sendin' that thar fleet to FINLAND fer? What chew thank they gone dew, drill fer ALL or sumpin' lock that? Tha'r ain't gone fand no all thar ennyhow -- et's too durn KALD up thar! That thar Gulf of Both-knee-ya ain't as nass as are Gulf of Me-Hee-Co, but that's whar yer fleet otter go, dontcha thank?

Ankara (RTP) - The Turkish foreign minister today announced that the captured letter contained a plan to send the Italian fleet in Greece near the Turkish coast and there release thousands of coffee-eating insects in order to destroy the Turkish coffee market. In this way the millions of loyal coffee drinkers would be shaking from lack of caffeine and be wide open for an invasion.

STUD Service - In a surprising move, the Tsar announced the engagement of Marshal of the Army Mikhail Whitski to the Tsar's most beautiful and oversexed daughter, Princess Anesthesia. The marriage will raise Whitski to the level of Prince of the Russian Empire, and make him next in line for the throne behind the Tsar's young son and heir apparent, the Tsardine. It had been previously rumoured that Anesthesia would marry the son and heir of King Umberto of Italy, and that Umberto's daughter would marry the Tsardine. If such a deal had been in the works, it was nixed when the Italian king declared that he would never let his daughter marry a Russian. As the Tsar smugly smirked in pidgin Italian, "No Trollina for da Tsardine, no Anesthesia for-a da little Wop!"

Paris - "Le Quotedien Mensonge" reported today that the Emperor awarded to Marshal Dillon France's highest award, Le Bindon Rouge, for his successful liberation of Munich.

Petrograd - The Tsar is still perplexed by mysterious press releases dated Memphis, Miami, Tampa, etc.

London (Royal Information Press) - Three chefs were dispatched (that's sent, not executed) to the Continent this morning, as Prime Minister Gaughan attempted to patch up recent bad feelings between England and France. It is not known whether French troops will prefer fish 'n' chips to bratwurst, but international observers are skeptical.

Austin - Should anyone wish to call the Tsar, his # is (512) 474-7128.

Ankara (RTP) - In an effort to stop the possible spread of coffee-eating insects, the Sultan today announced a two-part program. First, the Turkish air force/postal service/lexicographers union will aerially spray the coffee crop with "every vile thing imaginable that won't taste bad" in an effort to ward off the possible infestation. Second, the Turkish reserve forces will attempt to capture the insects before release. The Sultan is convinced that this attempt on the sovereignty of Turkey is a prank by Italy's well-known joke of a navy. The Sultan also said that his friend Umberto would never wish to hurt Turkey.

Mars - War fever is mounting in the Martian capital of Helium as the Martian Expeditionary Force prepares to leave for Htrae. Militaristic passions have been building up on Mars ever since the presence of canals and war-like nations on Htrae was confirmed. All attempts by pacifists to open negotiations with the Hraelings have been strangled in the Martian Assembly by jingoistic Martians expecting a swift and victorious pre-emptive strike. "Home before the jobaxi leaves fall!" is the slogan of the militarist faction. One Martian Marine declared, "I'm ready to go fight for truth, justice and the Martian way!" The journey of the M.E.F. will take half a Martian year, with the ships landing on Htrae's northern hemisphere during its spring season.

Ankara (RTP) - In a separate announcement today, the Sultan said that although Italy is a friend, so is Russia. Necessarily, Umberto's remarks about not allowing his daughter to marry a Russian are considered irresponsible. The Sultan then outlawed all pasta within Turkish control.

Paris (PPI) - Reports persist of the existence of a heavily guarded railroad coach on a siding at Versailles. Its purpose is unknown, but rumors persist that it is connected with the French war effort.

Meanwhile, the Emperor stated that he was attempting to move French forces from Munich, despite the agonizing protests of the populace. "My men are suffering from a severe truffles deficiency," stated the Emperor. "Marshall Dillon attempted to teach the German pigs to root for them, but they kept running back to the beer halls."

STUD Service - Scientists at the Royal Botanical Testing Station in Odessa have reported a dramatic improvement in the ecological stability of the Black Sea. The scientists and government officials gave credit for the improvement to Russo-Turkish cooperation in cleaning up their respective waste removal techniques. "Just goes to show that a little diplomacy can clear the water as well as the air between two countries," quipped one scientist.

Manchester (R.I.P.) - An official communique from Defense Minister John Galleveryoneaway:

The British government applauds Austria-Hungary's recent successful defense of her honor and national integrity in driving Italian forces out of Trieste. Any help England can provide will be gladly sent. (We have some compromising photos of Umberto, if you want 'em.)

Turkey to World - The northern retreat of Oakland has been abandoned for Berkeley. Use Berkeley address.

STUD Service - Tsar Nicholas laughed openly when told of King Umberto's animosity. Umberto had labeled (libeled?) the Tsar's intentions as "less than honorable." The Tsar remarked, "When the French Army in Rome is attacking the Turkish Fleet in Naples, and the Austrians are taking Venice, and there is no Russian unit closer to Italy than the Balkans, the world will see how stupid Umberto was to have feared me."

Marseilles (French Office of General Information - FROGI) - A German freedom fighter told the French authorities today that German U-Boats are dumping tons of sauerkraut in the English Channel to cripple British naval forces. "Der kraut gets shtuck in der shcrews and der shippers shtopen," shtated Heino Heidler.

Petrograd to Memphis - Maybe Mr. Reagan wouldn't send me arms because I'm Russian, but as long as I quash the Communists and behave like a good reactionary autocrat should, then Mr. Haig ought to be able to sneak some aid to me.

Bristol (R.I.P.) - Confusion in recent North Sea maneuvers has prompted His Royal Highness King Edward to join naval chiefs here in a conference on plans to begin a Continental offensive against Germany. Such plans have been frustrated by a breakdown in communications with both Russian and French counterparts.

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Well, I hope you Mensa 14 types are proud of yourselves! It was the '81 C players who first ascribed significance to being on page 3...and this time you guys "beat them to it". If I didn't know better, I'd swear that a couple of you are bucking for a Press Game II invite...

Keep it up.

1981 C Commentary: 1903

by Eric Verheiden

1903 was a most interesting year, for some more than others. Italy (Carne) overextended to the west and paid the price when a not-so-loyal Austrian ally decided that Italy was one neighbor too many.

Austria (Byrne) demonstrated her expertise once again, eliminating yet another potential rival--and jumping to nine centers in the process. France probably will not be an immediate problem, so the question is where to go next. Russia, also at nine and with two builds, may be too tough a nut to attempt just yet. This leaves Germany, which has been notably waffling between France and England. Also, Austria has been prowling the border for some time now. So my guess is that 'Black Jack' may feel he has been hit with one rather shortly.

Turkey (Swider) at least went down gracefully, with a minimum of fuss once it was clear that the game was up.

Russia (Mercer) has been coasting just a bit, letting Austria jump out into new territory while he cleans up in the year. Some interesting games are being played with Germany and England. The former, understandably miffed at the sudden annexation of Belgium, graciously supports Russia into the North Sea--and takes a shot at Norway just to keep the Tsar honest. Clearly, there is no love lost in the relationship. My guess is Austrian and Russian armies in Prussia, Silesia, Bohemia and Tyrolia in the Spring, followed by a bit more serious discussion of old scores.

Germany (Masters) would seem to be having problems keeping control of his fractious neighbors. The French attack appeared to finally be in gear, when all of a sudden England decides he prefers Belgium to Brest. Meanwhile, Austria and Russia are clearing out the east and beginning to group on the border. Not a good situation for any power, for one as centrally located as Germany it could be disastrous. The only possible saving grace is the lack of Russian fleets in the north, provided his home centers can be defended on land.

England (Guajardo) evidently bought French arguments on switching sides, only to find France switching against him on the next turn. This illustrates the dangers of waffling, particularly for a small power. It is true that Germany had been demonstrably more successful than England. On the other hand, the time lost, even if the switch is successful often outweighs the advantages.

For France (Pearson), things are looking up. Austria thoughtfully disposed of the Italian threat in the south (and will not pose a real threat for a while herself with one or two fleets). Meanwhile, apparently diplomatic success with England and then Germany eliminated the coordinated northern attack and gained a new ally, at least until Germany switches again.

General prognosis: Germany will get jumped on this year. Austria and Russia really have nowhere else to go. England and France may jump in or continue a private grudge match on the sidelines. Austria will quietly begin to build up a navy for an eventual westward push, keeping a watchful eye on Russia all the same. If Russia should slip in the north, watch for the Austrian shark to react once again to blood in the water.

TACKY is a new zine (7th issue) published by Lu Henry, 6056 Waverly, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127. It has been until recently an unashamed warehouse, but recently Lu's sharp tongue has been more and more in evidence in some original writing. ((I'll be reprinting his review of "the overstuffed turkey game of the year," Avalon Hill's Gold!, in JIHAD #21.)) Lu has openings in A Mighty Fortress (along with John Boardman and myself, we make up a pretty exclusive--some would say crazy--group), Diplomacy, Wooden Ships and Iron Men, Ironbottom Sound, and possibly a couple of others. A nice, friendly place to play... recommended. Subs 30¢ per issue (47¢ over one ounce).

1981 C"The Press Game"Winter, 1903
Spring, 1904

Bloodsucker Smells Fresh Blood In Different Areas. Tunisian Empire Belatedly Enacts Smoking Ban. Fleets Perform Complex Dance In Western Waters.

Autumn 1903...England retreats f nth-lon.

Austria (Kathy Byrne): Build a tri, a vie, a bud. a tri-SER; a vie-GAL; a BUD s a bul-rum; a bul-RUM; a rom-VEN; f nap-ION; a gre-BUL; a BOH s a vie-gal; a ven-TYO.

England (Arturo Guajardo): Build a lpl. a bel*hol; a lpl-EDI; f eng-MID; f LON-nth.

France (Al Pearson): Even. f mid-IRI; a pic-BRE; a MAR s a par-bur; a par-BUR; a SPA holds.

Germany (Jack Masters): Even. a bur-BEL; f HOL s a bur-bel; f DEN-nth; a swe-NWY; a BER s Austrian a boh-sil (not so ordered); a RUH s a bur-bel.

Italy (Gerald Carne): Remove f lyc, a tus, f tyh. a TUN posts "no smoking" signs about the city (holds).

Russia (Keith Mercer): Build a war, a mos. f NTH-lon; a con-SMY; a ank-ARM; f rum-BLA; a sev-UKR; a war-SIL; a PRU s a war-sil; a stp-FIN; a mos-STP.

England must retreat a bel to pic or otb.

Al Pearson and Gerald Carne have address changes on page 1.

Eric Verheiden's commentary on 1903 appears on the facing page.

Deadline for Fall 1904 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 9, 1981. Press follows.

London to Paris - I took a trip on Blueberry Whip.

London to Berlin - Hit the Road Jack, and doncha come back no more!

London to Vienna - And then I go and say something stupid, like I trust you.

London to St. Petersburg - There's a dead skunk lying in the middle of the North Sea. C'mon, stink!

London to Tunis(?) - "All is lost. Admit it take flight. I, gagged in contradiction, tears blinding my sight..." (sniff).

Burgundy ((EX-)) to Friendly Al - O.K., I've seen enough of your blueberry-whip spattered countryside--but what are you going to do with those four armies?

Kearneysville to Hazel Park - I disclaim the "Dulltown" byline. Since Mercer indicated that it was mine in his last press, I expect you to notify the other players that "Dulltown" is not mine, or your house rules will be broken in that any press from there will appear to be from a person it is not.

Hazel Park - Frankly, I don't see that any one player's unsubstantiated assertion on the origin of "Dulltown" automatically implies that any future "Dulltown" press must come from any specific player, in spite of Al's fears. The "Dulltown" dateline, as it happens, has not been Mr. Pearson's in the past, but there's nothing inherent in that dateline that would prevent any player from using it in accordance with my house-rules.

Paris to The Last Italian Unit - Sure I'm interested in an alliance. And Kathy made me an offer. What's it to ya?

Moscow Dispatch - Czar Venomoski, Jr. was rushed to the Royal Dogtred Hospital today. A release from the hospital disclosed that the Czar suffered from a severe depression due to the extermination of his long time foe Sultan Tommie "The Romper Stomper". To lift up the Czar's spirits his aides have brought him folders describing a new land deal that is in the making (some shore resort off the Norwegian coast).

Moscow to Tunis - Remember, never let all your home centers open.

Rome to Moscow - All those armies were making me nervous - doesn't anyone in this game like fleets?

London to Pam - I have fantasies about lady cops.

London to Phyllis - I have fantasies about 12 year old lady cops.

Hazel Park to London - Nikita Frobish still has Black Plague openings in Stab Is A Four-Letter Word. You seem to be thinking like a Black Plauger already...

London (LIES) - In an exclusive interview with that adept figure of international analysis, E. Verheiden, the London Information and Enlightenment Service (LIES) has been able to obtain a preview of Verheiden's long awaited 1903 analysis of the current war in Europe.

In Verheiden's latest thesis, he states that England has made positive and concrete moves to save Western civilization from the invincible juggernaut of Austro-Russian aggression. Fearing that the Franco-Prussian conflict would bog down into a hopeless morass of trench warfare, thus leaving Germany helplessly exposed to an offensive by the Austro-Russian forces in the East, the English cleverly attacked their erstwhile ally in Belgium knowing that this would cause the Kaiser to reconsider his obdurate anti-French position, thus creating a firm and powerful Franco-Prussian alliance with which to buffer the British Isles from the Austro-Russian menace.

Verheiden claims that this brilliantly conceived and executed diplomatic stratagem may well save the West from the inevitability of an Eastern rout. Though possible problems may arise concerning England's ability to survive as an independent nation, Verheiden lauds the British government's farsighted adoption of this plan, stating that the intellectual basis of such a policy can only be a result of such avant-garde diplomatic as that espoused by the T. Swider Academy of Strategy and Tactics and the prestigious G. Carne Institute of Negotiation.

London to Hazel Park - How did I get in this one? These people are pros.

I'm in over my head.

Hazel Park - Not at writing press, you're not...though I'll stipulate that press talents feel secondary when you're having your dots grabbed...

Ruhr to Bohemia - Oh please, please spare me Munich. Remember all of those no-smoking signs.

To Friendly Al, The Sailor's Pal - I'm waiting in Tunis.

French National Bank to Damsel - The check is in the mail.

Gary Coughlan Dept. - Kathy is muy loco!! Or in plain English--she's nuts to yell charge as she attacks the Snake.

Damsel to Rusty - The real threat is Jack and Keith! See how I moved - my ally is my rusty knight. So how about some help! I seem to have a shortage of fleets, could you lend me one?

Moscow to Berlin - What Russian problem? I'd just rather be safe from the possible German invasion that I keep hearing is coming my way. I can't be too safe.

Paris - The French National Bureau of Nutrition wishes to announce that the dish known as French Fries has been proven to be hazardous to one's health. In the most recent case, an unknowing Italian tried to consume a large volume of French fries (including Mar) and seems to have had major physical problems which will no doubt result in his early demise. The French government, not wishing to have this unfortunate incident repeated, suggests to all world powers that they not attempt to "gobble up" any of France. Thank you very much.

Bloodsucker to Snake - It was nice while it lasted, but Black Jack and Uncle Al both wrote and called me to tell me you were up to no good. How could I not believe the two most honest people in the hobby! They set me up, didn't they?

Moscow Dispatch - The infamous Siberian Sixth Army today marched out of Warsaw while on parade towards the German border. General Frobish would only comment that his troops needed to get away to some good English scotch. When told he was headed toward Germany, he only laughed at our reporter and said, "We'll take the high road and you take the low road and who the hell asked you anyways?"

Pope Hush Hush to Damsel - How can I forgive you if you didn't bring the Blueberry Whip?

Ireland to Iceland - Rumor has it that Kathy Byrne's success is attributable to...

Iceland to Ireland - Now, you know Hazel Park won't print that sort of thing.

London to Paris - Call me unpredictable.

London to Pam - "One of These Nights"

Austria to Germany - Now you better make good on your bribe, or else I'll write about you in "Nice Guys Finish Last"!!

Snake to Snoopy Reporter - What's this I hear about you and Jacquie getting it together in Rome with some Blueberry Whip?

Austrian Snoopy Reporter - Well, Bloodsucker, I see you decided to help out your old friend Al. Are you mellowing?

Bloodsucker - Me, mellow? Never! But I had to help out my good friend, besides Pope Hush Hush asked me to entertain his troops, he just forgot to leave the troops behind. Oh, well, I bet the next time he leaves his country to visit Paris, he leaves lots of troops behind. See what a good teacher I am?

Italy to Austria - Be glad you're a lady. Otherwise, what I could say to you...

Hazel Park to Italy - Go ahead and say it. Who knows, she might like it.
Overheard Somewhere In Europe -

Black Jack to ME - Get out of Belgium and all is forgiven.

ME to Black Jack - Grovel! Grovel!

Snake to Black Jack - Thanks for the offer and I'd be glad to help in the conquest of England, provided you retract your threats toward me. Otherwise, I'll have to come up with a few of my own.

Berlin to London - You see, my former friend, Russia messed me up as well as you. But, instead of continuing to work with me, you had to make the stab in Belgium (a supply center you cannot hold). Your alternative was to take Brest and retake Norway last year--you would have gained two and maintained a solid German ally. Instead you will not keep Belgium, and who are your allies going to be now?

Paris to Moscow - Too bad you are going to have to attack somebody. At least I am too far away (currently) to be a candidate on your list. Whether it is Black Jack or Kathy, I'm sure it will be interesting.

Austria to France - Are you happy? Now Keith knows I'm as nasty as you! Making me stab my good ally - just so my reputation will be as bad as yours. I think I just committed suicide to prove I can be as rotten as you. Maybe I should just let you keep the Nixon award, I don't know if it's worth all this trouble.

London to Paris - Why do I get the feeling you're lying to me, Al? Bad vibes made me build in Liverpool.

London to Berlin - Remember the '78 IL? Here's my chance to emulate your Austria. I only hope I can be worthy of the Master.

Marseilles - Once again the people of this peace-loving town salute the gallant forces of Austria. Kaiserina Kathy has once again proved that old adage--"Anyone coming to the aid of Honest Al will surely be rewarded."

Moscow Dispatch - Octoberfest will be held this year in Silesia where peace will be assured. The German homeland is becoming too insecure in these times.

Tunis to World - NO SMOKING. And I don't care how many people walk out.
(Do you have a light?)

Hazel Park - 420. That's 1,493 lines..

Leeder Polls: Part II

Two factors work at distorting the results of the Leeder GM Poll: one is the occasional grudge vote, and the other is the small sample size (5 vote minimum to make the list) which magnifies the effects of each and every vote--including the aberrations.

Below are four lists of the Top 15 GMs. One is the original list; a second "corrects" for grudge votes with adjusted averages; the other two apply a ten-vote minimum to the first two, in an attempt to increase the validity of the numbers (all things being equal, larger samples bring more reliable results). Draw your own conclusions...

ORIGINAL LIST--Daly, Brown, Coughlan, Sergeant, Ditter, Lischett, Michalski, Smyth, Davis, Caruso, Boardman, Kendter, Marshall, Overby, Pearson.
ADJ. AVG.--Daly, Michalski, Kendter, Boardman, Caruso, Brown, Coughlan, Sergeant, Masters, Arnett, Ditter, Lischett, Smyth, Heinowski, Overby.
10 VOTES--Daly, Brown, Sergeant, Lischett, Michalski, Caruso, Kendter, Overby, Pearson, Masters, Arnett, Conner, Heinowski, Sampson, Mills.
BOTH--Daly, Michalski, Kendter, Caruso, Brown, Sergeant, Masters, Arnett, Lischett, Heinowski, Overby, Pearson, Conner, Mills, Sampson.

All from the SAME numbers. It's just a matter of how you want to read 'em.

1981 Cna02 (North America; 2020)

December, 2020
January, 2021

Confederacy Sneak Attacks Boston. Quebec Bids For Superpower Status. USA Attempts A Counterattack Against Texas. Alaska Falls To Canadians.

Canada (Steven Duerr): Remove f gsl, a fre. a whi-ANC; a tor-SAU; f NPO s a whi-anc; a BIL-min; a WPG s a bil-min; a THU s a bil-min.

C.S.A. (Keith Mercer): Even if no BOS, a MEM holds, if EGM-florida (amb).

Deseret (Mike Scott): Even. f BER-anc (F is frozen in!); a boi-SEA; a PHO-ced; a SLC-ced; f nep-POR.

Mexico (David Anderson): Build a yuc, plays one short. a YUC holds; f NOR-hou; a mty-LAR; a ELF s a mty-lar; a dur-MTY.

Quebec (Debbie Osborne): Build a que, plays one short. a OTT s a buf-tor; a buf-TOR; a bos-AUG; a QUE s a bos-aug; a MTL s a que.

Texas (Don Swartz): Remove f wgm. a ALB-ama; a lar*s a alb-ama (ret DAL);
a HOU s a lar; h kan-lit & lit-MGY.

U.S.A. (Greg Stewart): Remove f anc. a DEN-ama; a CIN-mem; a nyc-PIT; a MIN holds; a DES s a min; a LIN s a min; f was-NYC; a ric-RAL; a wrsr-DET.

Deadline for February 2021 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on Thursday, December 10, 1981. Press follows.

Texas to the World - Sorry for the lack of press and letters, next month will be better.

Sun City, Iowa - The 54th annual Super Bowl was held today. The New York Neanderthals soundly stomped the Indianapolis Clones. This was the first Super Bowl victory to New York since Joe Namath led the Jets to a win in Super Bowl III.

Indecision Rocks Black Sea & Caucasus. South China Sea Is THE #1 Tourist Trap In Recent Fall. Turmoil's A Close Second. Though

China had a fleet in ute, not an army.

Austria (Keith Mercer): a VNA-trl; a TRI s a vna-trl; a clu-GAL; a ser-BUL;

China (Steven Duerr): f pek-YEL; f CTN-schi; f vtm-TON; a han-KAN;

England (Dan Wilson): f ire-NATL; f edi-NTH; f lon-ENG; f BEL s f lon-eng;
f NWY s f edi-nth; s l-l YOR; f ICH mal; f TWA(wa) brm

France (David Anderson): f MOR-eafr (impossible); f bre-MATL; a p
S-~~W~~ P-~~Y~~ S-~~P~~ S-~~A~~ f SAI Sabi; f S-~~W~~ STA

Germany (John Strain): f kie-BAL; a mun-BOH; a pos-PRU; a boh-SIL;
f BEN; f kie-bal; a-bal PUH

India (Glen Taylor): f mdr-EIND; f JAV-mal; a BRM-tha; a del-CLT;
a AEC-holds

Italy (Victor Ricci): f nap-ION; f ion-TUN; a pen-EGY; f eth-ADE;
a VEN trl; a RIE a S Yen trl

Japan (Eugene Prosnitz): f jap-KAR; f kyo-JAP; f osa-ECHI; f FOR-schi; f obi-CEI

Russia (Greg Stewart; replaces Zablocki): f SWE holds; a UKR holds;
f PLA holds; a TUR holds; f VLA holds; a IRA holds ((GM Note))

T-BHA holds; a TGA holds; a VWR holds; a TMA holds. (See Note not an NMR.)

Concord, a bold, distinguished

Will Jim Bragg, 1509 N 8th St, Martins Ferry, OH 43935 please stand by
for Turkey?

COAs for Dunn and Anderson on page 1

COAs for Duerr and Anderson on page 1. Deadline for Fall 1982 is Wednesday December 9, 1981. No press-

1981 Ffn02 (The Song of the Night)Spring, 5002

Wogistan Enters State of Anarchy, While Befuddled Ones Remain Befuddled.
 Fem Mark Reclaims Homeland from Barbarians. Fourdor Encounters Legendary
 Mage. Children Of The Night Finally Strike!

Spellcasting: A W1-CHA-Beldour
 C K-VC-Ebony Straits (Hero drowns; Pirates unaffected)
 E W1-CHA-Ojzanlai

A "Fourdor" (Mark Larzelere): A AMYR-igen (Dragon); A andemon-LESMA;
 F troom-YVNAD; H1 demonland-LESMA; ScrollOS amyr-ANDEMOM;
 K+N urien-DRASCHADE (Castle)(Ring); W1 beldour-YVNAD;
 Trolls beldour-HIDICH (Wild Hunt - legendary wizard Liane the Loquacious
 appears--will serve for 4 years); F WESTERN SEA s f troom-yvnad.

B (Civil Disorder): K+N BANBECK, H1+A ISTA, W1+F BYSSA.

C "Ducastrian" (David Anderson): H1+N telgar-MYRRHA (Hero destroys ghosts);
 F ISLE OF DUSK-vast sea (Mermen); W1 sea of fertility-ISLE OF DUSK;
F sea of fertility-pera mts. (Children capture fleet); K VARIAN-blue sea;
A CASSAN-belesden (Goblins)(Castle); A ESURIAN holds.

D "Befuddled Ones" (Mike Crane): N.M.R. F BLUE SEA, N COBLE, H1 CATH,
 Sword COBLE; ScrollIMM BITRA; Sword DERAIS; K+W1+A DERAIS.

E "Andrclep" (Richard Carlson): F haulk-VANISHING STRAITS; F dhassa-DEEP SEA;
 K mormune-DOL SHAIAC; Amulet dhassa-DOL SHAIAC; A dol shaiac-REMLAP;
 A famira-NORTHERN MARCHES (Transporter); H1 anthea-IDNAK (Helm);
w1 ojzanlai-kark (Children capture wizard); Dwarves OJZANLAI hold;
ScrollBKD w/W1 (now captured!).

F "Fem Mark" (Debbie Osborne): K eus-ESGAIR; H1+A ibian-ENED (Barbarians
 dislodged/annihilated); Giants LEMOS-draschade; ScrollVC+Scroll OS w/K;
 Horn w/H1.

Non-Allied Creatures on Map: Dragon Logol Mts., Barbarians Mormune;
 Giants Sorn; Werewolves Demonland; Ghost Army Benden; Barbarians Lendour;
 Goblins Kislovan; Pirates Ebony Straits; Dragon Igen; Mermen Vast Sea;
 Children Pera Mts. (CF captive); Children Kark (EW1 w/Scroll BKD capt.);
 Goblins Belesden.

Castles Found: Andemon, Banbeck, Esurian, Joaz, Dol Shaiac, Eus, Kislovan,
Arjenol Mts., Draschade, Belesden. (Player capitals)

Mountain Ranges: Arjenol, Logol, Pera.

Transporter: Northern Marches.

The proposal to allow standbys failed; Dan Palter's resignation thus
 places his country into Civil Disorder. Note that Mike Crane's two NMRs do not
cause him to lose his position; only a resignation or failure to keep
up a sub will cause a position to go GD.

Deadline for Fall 5002 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on Tuesday, December 8, 1981. Press held over.

* * * * *

Leeder Polls: Part III

On page 9 we discussed the impact that various changes would have on
 the GM Poll results. Below are the "adjusted averages" of the Top 20 GMs,
 the amount of change involved, and the numbers for the one GM who would move
 INTO the Top 20 under this computation method.

Daly (9.58 +.43), Michalski (9.57 +1.02), Kendter (9.22 +1.02), Boardman
 (9.20 +.87), Caruso (9.15 +.77), Brown (8.82 -.08), Coughlan (8.80 -.06),
 Sergeant (8.77 +.16), Masters (8.74 +.74), Arnett (8.70 +.76), Ditter
 (8.67 +.07), Lischett (8.67 +.12), Smyth (8.50 even), Heinowski (8.43 +.81),
 Overby (8.38 +.24), Davis (8.33 -.07), McGee (8.33 +.53), Marshall
 (8.25 +.08), Osuch (8.20, +.09), Pearson (8.00 -.13), Bumpas (7.75 -.13).

Remember that adjusted average is primarily a partial correction for
 grudge votes...large changes mean a large impact from extreme votes in the
 original poll results.

Seismic Diplomacy

A Diplomacy variant invented by Pierre Lavaurs and first published in French by Jean-Phillippe Hubsch in Vortigern #68.

English translation by John R. Marsden.

First printing in English was in Ode #21, published by John Marsden. Reprinted by permission.

1. The Diplomacy Rulebook applies apart from the following modifications.

2. After Spring retreats, and after Winter adjustments, an additional phase takes place: Seismic Events. ((Ed. Note--In games played according to customary American pbm practice, I recommend placing Seismic Events after moves but before retreats in Spring and Fall.))

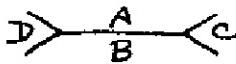
3. Each player may order one Seismic Event each season.

4. There are two kinds of Seismic Event, as follows:

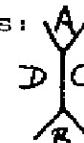
a) Separation and Connection.

This involves four provinces (land or sea) forming this kind of configuration:

The order is as follows: A and B separate,
C and D connect.



If the order is applicable, the configuration becomes:
Note that 'C' and 'D' may be the same.



Example: England, Spring 1901.

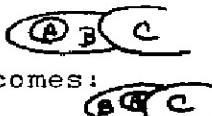
Por and Spa separate. MAO and MAO connect.
Portugal thus becomes an island in the Mid Atlantic.

It can occur that an order of this kind is ambiguous. In that case orders must be specific or they will be disallowed.

b) Release.

If three provinces form this configuration:
A release order would be: A and C connect.

If the order is applicable, the configuration becomes:



Example: England, Spring 1901.

Por and Spa separate. MAO and MAO connect.

France, Fall 1901.

Por and Bre connect.

Portugal thus becomes a peninsula attached to the south coast of Brittany.

Again, in the event of possible ambiguity, orders must state precise intentions.

5. Switzerland and the Outside of the board, considered as an impassable province, can be included in Seismic orders.

Example: England, Spring 1901.

StP and Bar separate. Nwy and Out connect.

Russia, Spring 1901.

Nwg and Bar separate. Nwy and Out connect.

The result of that is shown on the right.

England, Fall 1901.

Nwy and Bar separate. Out and Out connect.

The Barents Sea thus becomes trapped in the Outside and is inaccessible.

Italy, Spring 1902.

Bar and Tun connect.

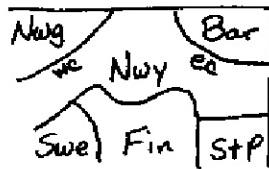
The Barents now becomes a lake attached to the south of Tunis!!

6. If two or more players make the same Seismic Order, its force is thus increased.

7. Seismic Orders are inadmissible in the following cases:

a) If there is another Seismic order, equal or greater, which, if applied with the offending order, would have the effect of dividing a province into parts.

b) If there is an equal or greater Seismic order which, if applied after the offending one, would not make sense.



Examples: Spring 1901.

1. Austria: Bul and Gre separate, Ser and Aeg connect.
Turkey: Bul and Aeg separate, Gre and Con connect.

2. Austria & Russia: Bul and Gre separate, Ser and Aeg connect.
Turkey: Bul and Aeg separate, Gre and Con connect.

((In the first case, the effect would be to split the Aeg; in the second Austria's order succeeds because Russia orders the same, and therefore separating Bul and Aeg afterwards would not permit Gre and Con to connect.))

3. England: Por and Spa separate, MAO and MAO connect.
FALL 1901: England: Por and Iri connect.

France: Por and Bre connect.

The successive application of these orders would have the effect of dividing the MAO into two. Note that the orders would still be inapplicable if England had ordered Por and Eng connect, because this would form a pocket of MAO bounded by Por, Bre, and Eng.

8. The application of a Seismic order can cause a coastal province to be divided into two or more coasts when it previously had none, or to divide a previous coast into more than one. In this case, players must give provisional orders as to where a fleet in such a province should be placed. In the absence of such orders the GM will determine this randomly, or according to a convention agreed at the start of the game.

If, following Seismic orders, the coast on which a fleet is located disappears, and that province possesses other coasts, the fleet is automatically placed on another coast (the player may choose if that is possible). Should a fleet be left in a province without coasts, it is trapped and may only hold until a coast is opened for it. It may be supported in holding.

9. Certain provinces are regarded as 'straits provinces'. If they possess coasts on both of the following sea areas, those coasts are regarded as one.

Con with Bla & Aeg; Kie with Hel & Bal; Den with Ska and Bal;
Swe with Ska and Bal; Nap with Ion and Tyh.

This is as much fun to watch as it is to play, as the "familiar" Dip board gets slowly mutilated beyond recognition. Unfortunately, I can't open a game of this right now (no time!); perhaps another variants GM will embark upon this adventure?

Class of 1981 Poll, Part II

Remember, balloting is NOW IN PROGRESS for the Second Annual "Freshman Class" Poll of zines which started publishing in 1981.

You may vote for any or all such zines on a 0 (utterly worthless) to 10 (practically perfect) scale; you're also STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to send in your comments about individual zines or the Class as a whole. So far, I'm doing well on ballots, but not so hot on comments. It only takes 5 extra minutes to speak your mind in full!!

Ballots are due FEBRUARY 1, 1982; this allows even the last straggling members of the Class of '81 to be counted.

A partial list of the Class includes--Anduin, The Chamber, Coat of Arms, Dot Happy, East of Eden, Erebor, Europa Express, Give Me A Weapon!, The Great War In Modern Memory, Irksome, Klepto-Mania, Navel Orange, Paranoiac's Monthly, Peek, The Schemer, Sleepless Knights, Tacky, The White Duke, and Y'All...plus a barrel of subzines (which I'll list separately in the results) and a couple or three more starting between now and New Year's. Quite a bunch we have here, isn't it!

By the way, I do keep ballots. If you wish to add to earlier votes to cover zines you missed before, you may do so. Also, you may ALWAYS add commentary--the more, the better.

Give me a hand, and I'll give you 8 pages like you had last year...or maybe even more, if I can pay for it.

1980 KW

SULTANA SUFFERS SEVERAL STABS
Tsar Force-Marches Across Europe

Winter, 1904
Spring, 1905

Autumn 1904...French f spa(sc) retreats to por.

England (Ron Kelly): Remove f ska. f LON-nth.

France (Ned Nichols): Even. f por-SPA(sc); f LYO s a bur-mar; a bur-MAR; a lpl-YOR; f ENG-lon; a bel-BUR.

Germany (Steve D'Alessandro): Plays one short (no room). f EDI-nth; a KIE's f den; f DEN holds; a BER's a kie; a MUN's a ber.

Italy (Deane Sperdakos): Build a rom. f spa(sc)-WES; f wes-TYH;
a pie-VEN; a TRI's a pie-ven; a ROM's a pie-ven.

Russia (Steven Duerr): Build a war. f bar-NWG; a NWY s a swe (ordered to move); f BAL s a sweden; a SWE-den; a VIE s Italian a tri; a war-SIL; a RUM s a ser; a SER s f bla-bul(ec); f bla-BUL(ec); a arm-SMY.

Turkey (Debbie Osborne): Even, f con-BLA; a smy-ANK; a ven-TUS; f ion-TUN;
a alb-GRE; a bul*s a alb-gre.

Turkish a bul must retreat to con or otb.

Steven Duerr has a COA on page 1.

Deadline for Fall 1905 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on Friday, December 11, 1981. Press follows.

Berlin to Rome - Support your last message. Will talk further soon.

Military Dispatch #5 - General Thom Tetrazzini has announced that he has finally located his missing sergeant--in Venice! Apparently, in the dark no one noticed that the cannon had changed position while firing. Happily reunited with his outfit, the sergeant nearly shot the private who had originally fired him. Thommy then took his flock out on maneuvers in the gondolas of Venice, along with the Gypsies, Grecian dancing girls, Serbian shepherds, Bulgar nurses and Yugoslav cooks he still had with him.

Naval Dispatch #4 - Meanwhile, Admiral Manicotti has been reunited with his beloved - and graduated - gunnery cadets. The new fleet has been ordered to find the mermaids of the Ionian Sea. The Admiral hopes these ensigns can swim.

Hazel Park - I had to look through my old records to locate the missing Military Dispatch which wasn't published earlier...here it is.

Military Dispatch #4 - General Tetrazzini wandered down from the mountains above Trieste today. It seems he was delayed by a band of Slavs who were trying to set up an independent Slavic nation in Albania. Thommy was going to stay longer, but upon discovering that they had said SLAVS instead of SLOBS as Thommy had originally thought he'd heard, he and his men descended in search of Lower Slobbovia. When informed of Tetrazzini's safe arrival, one high-ranking Turkish official was heard to moan "Oh, no, I'd thought we'd lost that goldbrick for sure this time."

* * * * *

1981 HG PROPAGANDA MINISTRIES GET LARGER BUDGETS Winter, 1901
All Players But One Submit Press

Austria (Rick Slaughter): Build a BUD - also has a VIE, f GRE, a SER.

England (John Chisholm): Build f LON, f EDI - also has f NWY, f NTH, a BEL.

France (Pete Gaughan): Build a PAR, f BRE - also has f POR, a SPA, a BUR.

Germany (Debbie Osborne): Build a MUN, a BER - also has a RUH, f. HOL, a P

Italy (Mike Maston): Build a VEN, f NAP - also has a TRI, a APU, f TUN.

Russia (Greg Murray): Build a WAR, a SEV - also has a GAL, a UKR f SWE.

Turkey (Dan Wilson): Build f SMY - also has a BUL, a CON, f ANK.
Deadline for Spring 1902 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on Friday, December

11, 1981. Press follows.

Turkey to Austria - How go we now? You have my suggestions.
Berlin Bugle - Kaiserina Wilhelmina apologizes for missing her own beheading

Italia 1981 - Imperator et Rex Italia in Rio de Janiero omnium legionum hiberna constituit.

Imperator et Rex Italia dixit: "Cum Europa ad carceres a calce revocari."

Simul Tempi comitia Dixunt: "Mas Tequila! Para que el vino sepa a vino, Hay que tomarlo con un amigo!"

Simul Tempi, Imperator etc. dixit: Europa est Omnis divisa in partis tris quarum unam incolunt ranae, aliam Francia*, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua germaniae, nostra maxilla meleagris gallopavi appellantur. Hi omnes lingua institutis, legibus inter se differeunt. Meleagris gallopavi ab latrinae rhini flumen, a Francia et gallopavi dividit.

Comitia dixunt: "Mas puque! Detente caminante, Un tornillo y adelante!"

*Poor vintage, and also bad Latin!

London zu Wien - Mann die Italiener und die Turken haben einen Vogel, oder auch 'n kleinen Mann in Ohr. Viel Gluck mit Deinem Reich.

Azelhay Arkkay otay Arygay Oughlancay - Eegay hizway! Ookslay ikelay ymay layerspay areyay outyay otay apzay ouyay. Ankthay Athykay orfay ettinggay ityay artedstay...

Tsar to Sultan - You call yourself a "sultan", and thus a member of nobility, but it appears that you haven't even been educated in the use of the pen and paper. Wake up, or you'll be next on my list.

Berlin Bugle - The Teutonic Knights are currently gathering all known facts concerning the last known location of the Holy Grail. It has been suggested, however, that perhaps they should register both their expedition and the Ark's with the proper authorities in the Vatican.

Tsar Gregorki to Kaiserina Wilhelmina - With much pride I'd like to announce that the Grand Museum also contains the urgently sought Holy Grail. We've had it for centuries, but no one ever asked us about it.

Present score: Russia 2, Germany 0.

Turkey to Russia - You had better be careful in Northern Austria. That's like stepping into a bear trap.

Paris (United Lies Int'l) - The French President, Pierre Perro, today made his first public appearance after a protracted bout with Swiss flu.

Apparently brought on by a bad case of Italian wine (ever find a good one?), the Pres has sworn off the stuff.

London - King John's new album, "I'm Sailing Away", was released today.

Strong sales on the Continent are expected.

Anetevka via Berlin - A massive pogrom has been started in this sleepy little village. All Jews in the area are running for their lives. It would appear that they have been saying, "If the Ark were in Moscow, we would know." Consequently, this reporter can only speculate at the disappearance of the noted Jewish historian Josephus Ben Yuri from the Himmelburg College of Arkeology and the sudden appearance of the mysterious "Dr. Quah."

Turkish Press Int'l. - Much glee has been expressed over the egg splattered all over the French President's face. His state dinner and beheading had to be cancelled due to failure of French troops to take Munich as he had planned. In fact, reports are coming in that Germany is planning to actually visit the Elysee in the near future and go ahead with the party and beheading. The only question is whose head it will be?

Kaiserina Wilhelmina to Sultan al-Dan - Thank you for your mullah. Ali Baba is quite welcome to vacation on the Riviera. I hear it's lovely, and will join him as soon as my sinuses clear up.

President Pierre to Sultan al-Dan - Begging ze pardon, Monsieur Sultan, but we object to any theeve-types being landed on our beautiful beaches. Pleeze, how you say, bug off! (Unless, of course, you wish to contribute to my campaign fund, in which case almost anything can be made negotiable...)

Berlin Bugle - The safety of Berlin is unassailed," the Commissioner of Public Safety replied when informed of Kremlin comments to the contrary. "All thieves were registered at the entrance to the city marked for their usage - Gate 13 in the Berlin Wall. Anyone not arriving with museum and/or governmental approval - which was verified before admittance - was immediately ~~exported~~ exported."

Moscow to Vienna - Perhaps I can be swayed...

Berlin Bugle - The Kaiserina Wilhelmina sends her warmest regards to the Archbishop of Canterbury and prays for his rapid recovery.

1979 HWGERMAN WAR EFFORT CRIPPLED?
Draw FailsFall, 1908The French unit in Liverpool is a fleet, not an army as typed last time.Austria (Tom Thorsen): f LYO s Italian a mar; a PIE s Italian a mar;
f TYH-tun; f alb-ION; a bul-SMY; f AEG c a bul-smy; a SIL-mun;
f CON s a bul-smy; a TYO s a sil-mun; a BOH s a sil-mun;
a UKR s a mos; a WAR s a mos; a MOS s a war; a GAL s a war.France (Keith Mercer): a POR holds; f SPA(sc)-mar; f LPL holds; a LON
throws fertilizer into the North Sea and English Channel (holds).Germany (Kevin Mooney): f nat-MID; f NAF-tun; f nth-NWG; a GLY-lpl;
f ENG c French a lon-bre (not so ordered); a KIE s a bur-mun;
a BUR-mun; a GAS s French f spa(sc)-mar; a MUN-sil; a LVN-war;
a BER s a mun-sil; a PRU s a mun-sil; a STP-mos; a PAR (unordered)
holds.Italy (Mike Steagall): a MAR falls down, but holding out as long as we
can (Can anyone bring chips and dip?) (holds).Turkey (Steve D'Alessandro): a ANK-smu (the south coast is so nice this
time of year).

Supply Center Chart

Austria tri vie ser gre ven bud rum bul rom sev nap con smy tun war mos
(16) build 2

France spa por lon lpl (4) even

Germany ber mun hol den swe ~~spa~~ kie bel par ~~spa~~ bre stp nwy edi (12)
remove 2

Italy mar (1) even

Turkey ank (1) even

A three-way draw A/F/G has been proposed. Players should vote with
their orders.Deadline for Winter 1908/Spring 1909 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on
Friday, December 11, 1981. Press follows (although most of it was in the
orders!?).Ankara - The 1st (and only) army has moved south to investigate the dis-
appearance (temporarily) of the Red Tide along the south coast.*****
1980 IF YET ANOTHER SEPARATION Winter, 1905

England (Dan Wilson): Even - has a EDI, f DEN.

France (Alan Dickinson): Build f MAR - also has f ENG, a PIC, a BEL,
f LON, a LPL, a PAR, f NWG.Germany (Keith Mercer): Retreat f den-otb and a bel-RUH, remove a kie -
also has a HOL, a MUN, a PIE.Italy (John Daly): Even - has f TYH, f WES, f VEN, f TRI, a VIE, a GAL,
a BUD, a SER.Russia (Roy Henricks): Retreat a rum-SEV, build a WAR - also has a STP,
a SWE, a SIL, f NWY.Turkey (Al Pearson): Build a SMY - also has a RUM, a BUL, f GRE, f ION,
f CON.Deadline for Spring 1906 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on Friday, December 11, 1981. Press is held over until publication of Spring moves.

The Desperate Man's 332nd Tale ... by Greg Stewart

The desperate man was sitting in his den, his feet propped up on a green footstool with bronze clawed legs. He was sipping a vodka and lemonade with a lime twist. The book that the nude one was perusing was titled "The Iron Warthog" by Gilbert Shelton. It was while reading the third paragraph on page 37 that the infamous gray hotline rang.

The desperate one, startled out of his calm mood, snatched the phone up and answered nervously. "Yes?"

"This is Ieappoh Starbo from NSR712888. I have decided that instead of supporting your Starfleet Xictol, I'm going to move Spacewarriors Tau Ceti-Earth. That way I'll be able to get an extra starbuild in Winter 7066. Would your Starfleet Centaurus support me?"

The desperate man itched his nose. He asked, "What are you talking about?"

"Oh my Farnol! Isn't this Ophiucus 7-ZABNOL-664?"

"Uhhh, no."

"Who is this?"

"Why?"

"I may be forced to eliminate you. Nothing personal, of course."

"Oh, I see. Well, my name is Glenn Overby, and I live at Hazel Park in Michigan. The planet Earth snorts the contents of its nostrils upon your left xarnok."

"You'll die slowly for that, Glorbb!"

The desperate man slammed the phone down upon its cradle. Maybe that crank caller would take care of that bothersome Overby. Anyhow, that wasn't the phone call he had been expecting.

He returned to The Iron Warthog and his vodka. Time passed pleasantly. A knock interrupted his reverie.

The desperate one answered the knock, "Avanti."

The bald, tall, twisted butler entered the den. He glanced sidewise at his master. He stuttered, "I--I--I-- n-n-n-n-nabbed the intru--intru--intru--intruder! Shall I k-k-k-k-kill?"

"What intruder?"

"Ugh, ugh," drooled the butler.

"Well, speak up, clone!" The desperate man's anger began to flare.

The butler danced back and forth. "Ugh, ugh."

The desperate one pulled a lever hidden in the arm of his chair. A trapdoor opened up under the butler. He fell 50 feet, and sustained eight 10-sided dice of damage. Nodding to himself, the desperate man whispered silently, "Defective clone."

The nude, unshaven man walked out of his den and through the spacious kitchen. He went to the refrigerator and opened the door. Pushing the small white button at the bottom caused the fridge to slide smoothly to one side, revealing the entrance to the servants quarters.

He walked down the narrow wooden stairs. Pushing cobwebs out of his way, he entered a dark, damp, smelly room. He heard a muffled call for help coming from a corner. Tonguing a rear molar caused the desperate man's teeth to light up. Huddled in the far corner was a small person with about a mile of rope wrapped around her. He began unwinding.

Underneath the layers of rope was a young woman about five feet tall with brown hair and blue eyes. She looked up at the tall thin desperate man and said, "Thanks for getting me out of that rope. Now if we can get out before that creep comes back..."

"Don't worry about him. I have handed him over to the authorities. I must apologize for him and his behavior. I should never have made him... er...hired him in the first place. But let us try to forget this unfortunate incident. Would you join me for lunch?"

"Well, I'm really busy and my husband is going to pick me up in just a moment. Anyway you aren't dressed for the occassion. Besides, I'm not very hungry and I've got another fifteen letters to answer." Upon saying this, she darted out of the room and up the stairs. He heard footsteps rapidly fade away in the direction of the front door.

"I wonder if it was something I said?" the unwashed, long-haired, nude man asked himself.

He climbed the weathered old stairs back up to the kitchen. He shut off the servants quarters and helped himself to a shot of vodka with an Alka-Seltzer in it. Entering the den once more, he noticed that his Dip desk had been ransacked.

The only thing missing was the code book for the Dip Candy Land game he was cheating...er...playing in Just Among Friends.

Glancing up at his antique cypress clock with the word "Penrod" inscribed across the face, he realized that his phone call was overdue. Just then, the phone rang. He quickly picked it up and said, "Hello."

"Good afternoon. This is your arch-rival 'Detroit' Osborne speaking. By now you will have noticed that I now own the code book for all the cards in Dip Candy Land. All's fair in love, war, and Candy Land." Then came a click in his ear.

Dejected, the desperate man fell, then slumped in his chair. There was a note pinned to the arm. It read: "Cheer up, I'm mailing you a baked zucchini pie as a consolation. It will put some flesh on those bones."

Still feeling depressed, the desperate man clicked his 21" color TV on. A newscaster was speaking into a microphone. He was standing in front of what appeared to be the remains of a house. The desperate man turned the sound up. "...that the spacecraft was definitely not, I repeat, not from Earth. It apparently hovered over this Hazel Park home and captured and lifted a man from the house into the ship. It then destroyed the home and went into space. The trajectory has been determined to be identical with the Voyager I spacecraft which is on its 10,000 year journey to the star NSR712888..."

The desperate man smiled. His depression disappeared like dew on a sunny morning.

* * * * *

((Now you know the real reason last issue was so late...))

A Mighty Fortress 80

1542

WHEREIN Europe gasps for breath, her resources drained by protracted conflict; the Jesuits ride out to meet the now-entrenched heretics; peace becomes more than just a word; and Suleiman consolidates his gains...

Campaign Phase

England	(Don Swartz): 0714 1n; 1014 1n; 1115 2a1x1n; 1312 1x; 1517 2a; 1714 2n; 1815 2a; 1912 1n; 1913 1a; 2013 1a.
France	(Steve D'Alessandro): 2117 2a; 2131 1n; 2318 1a; 2418 1a.
Hapsburgs	(William Osmanson): 0821 2n; 0921 2n; 1520 2n; 1715(#2a; 1816(#2a; 1926 3a; 2223 3n; 2522 2a; 2617 1x1a; 2720 2x2a; 2722 1x1a; 2918 2a; 3427 3a.
Lutherans	(Tom Thorsen): 2211 2m; 2316 1x; 2411 1aAnh2m; 2413 1x2m; 2416 1aWrt; 2512 1m; 2516 1aSax; 2612 2m; 2613 1m; 2615 1aMck; 2701 1m; 2716 1aSax; 2810 1m; 2816 1aWrt; 2915 1m; 2916 1aMns; 3005 1m; 3008 1m; 3013 1m; 3015 1aAug; 3113 1aBra; 3114 1aBre; 3115 1aHes; 3210 1aBra; 3211 1aBra; 3212 1aBrn; 3401 1m; 3409 2m; 3709 2m; 4109 2m; 4211 2m.
Ottomans	(Chuck Higgins): 1533 2n; 2730 1a2n; 3120 4a; 3331 1x1a; 3412 1x1a; 3517 1x1a; 3518 2a; 3614 2x; 3931 1n2a.
Papacy	(Debbie Osborne): 2820 2a; 2821 1a; 2822 1a; 2922 2a; 3020 2m; 3023 1a; 3226 2x1m.

No combat or debate.

orders are randomly constructed so the Hapsburgs vacate English territory; Case 13.63 of the Rules required the Hapsburgs to leave this turn, but Bill's orders did not do so.

Taxation Phase

England - add Rouen, Paris. 26,000 Crowns.

France - Dijon, Geneva. 3,000 Crowns.

Hapsburgs - Corunna, Madrid, Barcelona, Prague, Naples, Zurich, Lisbon, Milan, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Genoa, Turin. 29,000 Crowns.

Lutherans - no change. 19,000 Crowns.

Ottomans - add Vienna. 25,000 Crowns.

Papacy - no change. 6,000 Crowns.

Diplomacy Phase**Areas Controlled**

England - Home, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, Scotland.
 France - France, Franche Comte.

Hapsburgs - Naples, Navarre, Spain, Tyrol, Portugal, Switzerland, Savoy, Genoa, Milan.

Lutherans - All Germany except Mark, Mecklenburg.

Ottomans - Home, Sardinia, Sicily, Venice, Hungary, Austria, Bohemia.

Papacy - Papal States, Florence, Tuscany.

Lutheran Religion: Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Poland.

States of War: Hapsburgs and England vs. France
 O vs H resolved by peace treaty below.

Diplomatic Pouch**Treaty of Paris, 1542**

I. The Islamic/Christian Treaty of 1532 is voided.

II. The present war between the Ottomans and Hapsburgs is ended. TYROL, AUSTRIA, HUNGARY and BOHEMIA are ceded to the Turks.

III. All following terms are secret((Alliance terms follow))

Papal/Ottoman Treaty of 1542 has been concluded. All alliance terms are secret.

Expenditure Phase

	Eng	Fra	Hap	Lut	Ott	Pap
Start 1542	1,000	10,000	13,000	23,000	77,000	28,000
Taxation	26,000	3,000	29,000	19,000	25,000	6,000
Gen Movement						- 2,000
Aug Movement					- 1,000	
War	-26,000	- 3,000	-29,000			-25,000
MMercenaries				- 5,000		
Start 1543	1,000	10,000	13,000	37,000	76,000	32,000
R & R Phase						

Entering This Turn: Lutheran 3m @ 2813.

Eligible Next Turn: France 2x11a5n; Papacy 1542 and 1543 reinforcements.

GM Note - My last GM note (G over middle C) was merely an attempt to make a sick pun on the word "note". Apparently I caused a little confusion, as one player asked me what I meant...There's no message in there. Honest.

Deadline for 1543 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on Monday, December 7, 1981. We're almost halfway home!!

Press

Dijon to London and Madrid - You sent the letter too late. But it's been signed, sealed and delivered.

Vox Vatican - The Holy Father has finally accepted the Sultan's offer of fete and has moved to join him in Venice. The event also honors the birth of the Sultan's 13th son - by his 13th wife! "A day of great blessing!"

In a more somber tone, the Holy Father noted that England is bankrupt. This displeases the Holy Father, as England owes some 5,000 Crowns to him. "It is unseemly for a Christian Prince to be in such a situation, and accounting for how he got that way shall be made to both God and man!"

In other news, the Jesuit order has once again aroused interest. It seems they plan on traveling as a large number of horses and coaches have been ordered. When asked, Father General Cavellette remarked "No, we're not moving the monastery!" Speculation is avid: as always, should anything happen this reporter will keep you posted.

Current Positions: Audley, Cromwell, FitzAlan(w/King Henry), Hastings, Holland, Percy, Pole, Roos, Scrope all at Preston; Grey(w/Margaret) and Greystoke at Kingston; Clifford at Conisboro; Neville(w/George) at Warwick; Stafford at Leeds; Stanley at Douglas; Edward, Edmund, and Edward all at home.

le Christopher, le Margaret, le Swan all at Southampton; le George, le Michael, le Trinity all at Penzance; le Lucas at s26; le Nicholas interned at London; le Rose interned at Plymouth.

Deadline for Turn 4 orders is 10:30 p.m. EST on Tuesday, December 8, 1981.

1981 HR (Mensa #15)

Fall, 1901

Mistrust and Miswrites Leave Three Western Dots Neutral. No Open Warfare-- Yet. (But Look At That Red & Green Balloon...)

Austria (Larry McCloud): f alb-GRE; a SER s f alb-gre; a vie-GAL.

England (Mark Warner): a lon-nwy (no such unit); f NTH c a lon-nwy (imp); f eng-BEL; a YOR (unordered) holds.

France (J.R. Douglas): a mar-SPA; f mid-BRE; a BUR s Italian a tyo-mun (not so ordered).

Germany (Dan Wilson): f HOL s English f eng-bel; a KIE s a mun; a MUN holds.

Italy (H.D. Bassett): a tyo-BOH; a apu-TUN; f ION c a apu-tun.

Russia (Ronald J. Brown): f fin-SWE; f rum-SEV; a ukr-RUM; a war-UKR.

Turkey (Lynn Cicotte): a con-ANK; f bla-CON; a BUL holds.

Supply Center Chart

Austria vie tri bud gre ser (5) build 2

England edi lpl lon bel (4) build 1

France par mar bre spa (4) build 1

Germany kie mun ber hol (4) build 1

Italy ven rom nap tun (4) build 1

Russia stp mos war sev swe rum (6) build 2

Turkey ank con smy bul (4) build 1

Neutral den nwy por

Larry McCloud has a COA on page 1.

Deadline for Winter 1901 builds is 10:30 p.m. EST on Friday, December 11, 1981. Press follows.

Moscow - The Russian Imperial High Command hereby reserves the following datelines: any city under Russian control, Trusting Tsar, or any other kind of Tsar, Brown Bear, and Rasputin.

Warsaw - The Tsar made an inspection tour of his troops stationed here today to console them on their recent setback in Galicia. "Do not despair!" he screamed. "We have kept the lying Austrian out of Russian territory. We can now concentrate on other fronts." It is believed that the Tsar is slightly insane.

TBDP - Well, six press releases isn't a bad start. I've seen games with no press in Spring 1901. Hopefully we'll at least double that amount this season.

Hazel Park to TBDP - Methinks you estimated a wee bit on the downside...

Holland - The Ruddy Baron, having been grounded due to double vision, has been assigned as captain of the German naval vessel Heinwort. Stationed in Holland at this time, the GNV Heinwort was ordered to protect the English troop convoy from French forces.

England to Italy - Opportunity knocked with a vengeance - did you answer?

England to Russia - You play a nice game of checkers - BLACK or RED?

Trusting Tsar to Terrible Turk - Shipbuilders are on standby in Sevastopol should a fleet flying a yellow flag move against Russian possessions this fall. Peaceful co-existence is up to you. If the shipbuilders are not needed they will be conscripted into the Russian army. Allah be praised (?) .

Frog Free Radio (Paris) - German speaking tour guide needed by group of Basques, gypsies, and Moral Majority deportees forming Foreign Legion detachment.

England to France and Germany - The boys from the fleet would be most angry to see their anticipated jaunt to Belgium for waffles thwarted. They might even revert to their old Saxon ways of pillage and torture. Are there any volunteers for the rack?!?!?!

Munich to Constantinople - Lynn, the only thing gentle in Diplomacy is the country assignments, and I do believe some will argue against that statement also.

Rasputin to Austria - Okay, we both lied. Want to kiss and make up? Brown Bear to Ruddy Baron - Guess who wants me to move into Berlin? Bet it's the same guy who wants you to visit Warsaw.

Anonymous - "Seven little indians..."

Paris to Berlin - My goodness--and after all that sweet talk.

Berlin - The German Ministry of War, Misinformation and Chaos has learned that French President Douglas has been admitted to a Paris hospital suffering from delusions. The Kaiser has dispatched his first-line troops to help quell any political unrest caused by President Douglas' "condition". The English King will be sending his own representatives to aid in this matter.

Germany to Russia - Yes, your Northern fleet did make a very good move. Too bad your troops weren't able to make it into Galicia on the first try. Maybe now?

Hazel Park - Nope, not now either. As for the "good move"--I think that '81AQ had some comments on that...

St. Petersburg to London - I do hope that army isn't aimed at Norway, old chap! It would have been so nice to leave the ski resorts in Scandinavia in their pristine state. War does tend to mess up the snow.

England to Austria - Looks like a cold winter - planning on bundling up in your bearskin coat?

Anonymous to Brest - Chicken!

Berlin to Liverpool - Come right ahead. Why, Germany will even serve all the beer you can drink when you have those Belgian waffles. I know France will enjoy the close proximity of so many festive vacationers.

England to Turkey - The bear dances nice - but the claws are very sharp!

Moscow to Rome - I thought Trieste was an Italian city. That's what it says in my history book. (Aside to Vienna - just kidding, heh, heh.)

Stop getting mad! Just a silly joke, that's all. Come on, smile. Please?) Germany to Italy - Go East, West, or South, but if you came North your fate will be quickly determined, and very probably not to your liking. I hope your talk of alliance is sincere and not meant to cover an attack.

* *

Leeder Polls: Part V

Betcha wondered when I'd get to my silly little weird averages for the Zine Poll, huh? Never fear...here they are for the top 15 adjusted averages:

1-Black Frog(8.69-1); 2-Dot Happy(8.42-2); 3-Brutus Bulletin(8.39-3);
 4-Murd'ring Ministers(8.05-4); 5-Retaliation(8.02-5); 6-East of Eden(7.83-11);
 7-Lone Star Diplomat (7.79-7); 8-Just Among Friends(7.78-8);
 9-Whitestonia(7.77-12); 10-Europa Express(7.73-6); 11-Jihad(7.68-9);
 11-Fol Si Fie(7.68-14); 13-Diplomacy Digest(7.47-16); 14-Cheesecake(7.39-10);
 15-Voice of Doom(7.37-26).

Two things stood out in this listing--the incredibly close bunching from 6th to 12th place (7 zines within .15!) and the rise of Voice of Doom, certainly the zine most affected by low votes not near its average.

Note that virtually all the top zines have their scores go up when the adjusted average is used. Not all of these zines have significant "grudge votes", to be sure, but when your average is up to 7.5 or 8, a single low vote has much more impact than a single high vote! When equal numbers of the lowest and highest votes are removed, therefore, so is a certain amount of "drag".

By and large, low votes aren't as big a thing with the zines as they are with GMs, because zines draw many more votes reducing the effect of each individual vote.

Contest Corner

Response to the Dip Bowl last issue was underwhelming--to say the least. I've postponed the idea for a few months as a result.

I've constructed a Miscellanea quiz for this Contest Corner. I use "miscellanea" because most of these questions are too weird to be just "trivia"... Most of the questions are games-related.

Three issues for the highest score.

1. Which JIHAD subscribers publish(ed) the following zines: Blood and Iron, Platypus Pie, Yggdrasil Chronicle?

2. The idea of one public and one secret power for each player, used in my Woolworth Diplomacy design, was also used successfully in an earlier version of a Dipvariant. Name the precise variant involved.

3. Which of these terms doesn't belong, and why: Diplomacy, Conquest, Fortification, Pillage?

4. Who was the only individual to win two Nobel Prizes outright?

5. Name at least three commercially published "books" on Diplomacy.

6. What is the Zip Code for the South Pole? (Yes, there is one.)

7. How many North American Diplomacy zines, presently being published, have published at least 100 issues? Name them.

8. What persons use these "reserved" press bylines: Eniwetok, Moose Valley, Purgatorio, Water Rat, Rambler, LIP Service? ((PS - oddballs, aren't they?))

Leeder Polls: Part VI

Things You Never Dreamed of Asking:

Most "10" Votes: Black Frog (19), Brutus Bulletin (16), Whitestonia (13). Most "0" Votes: Tetracuspid and Le Front (5 ea), Peek (4), 7 tied with 2.

Zines with 50% 8+ Votes: Jihad, Just Among Friends, Black Frog, Brutus Bulletin, Cheesecake, Dot Happy, Diplomacy Digest, Whitestonia, Europa Express, East of Eden, Fol Si Fie, Lone Star Diplomat, Retaliation, Murd'ring Ministers.

Zines with NO 8+ votes: Born to Dip, BOAST, Italiano Pribi, Le Front, LDNS.

The "Everybody Loves Me" List--NO Votes Under 5: Just Among Friends, Cheesecake, Dot Happy, Sleepless Knights.

The Consistency Club--80% of Votes 7 or Better: Black Frog, Dot Happy, Brutus Bulletin, Murd'ring Ministers, Jihad.

Top States In The Leeder Poll--California (8 listed, 3 top 20); Maryland (3 listed, 2 top 20); Michigan (4 listed, 2 top 20); New York (6-2); Pennsylvania (5-1).

Highest Rated Zine With NO "10"s: Just Among Friends (#8)

Lowest Rated Zine With No "0"s: Italiano Pribi (#50)

E.S.M. Potential--80% of Votes 5-7: Appalling Greed, Liberterrean, The Shogun's Sword. (This is consistency, too....)

Zine Rated Highest Over Its GM: Dot Happy (2) vs Allen Wells (26)

GM Rated Highest Over His Zine: John Boardman (11) vs Graustark (39)

* *

Looking Ahead

I eagerly anticipate the day when JIHAD returns to the first of the month. My schedule is normally structured to accommodate the end-of-month rush, and it feels "wrong" somehow to be writing the zine on the 8th, or 12th, or 17th.

For every word I wrote on the Leeder Polls this issue, I left out five I could have written. In many respects, though, it all boils down to one message...ALWAYS look as far beyond the figures presented as you can. The same data can be presented in hundreds of different ways...all of which are "truth".

Many, many thanks to John Leeder for performing this service, and for letting me have access to his data. Keep up the good work...

*Bye for now.

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